

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00097 231357Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 /071 W

-----232224Z 055592 /73

R 231317Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1616

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 097

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ROW OVER CONFIRMATION REFUSAL

1. SEVERAL WOMEN FROM "ALL CHILDREN TOGETHER" ORGANIZATION HELD "PRAY-IN" OUTSIDE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWTOWNARDS MARCH 21 DURING CONFIRMATION CEREMONY. WOMEN WERE PROTESTING REFUSAL BY DR. WILLIAM PHILBIN BISHOP DOWN AND CONNOR TO ALLOW YOUNGSTERS ATTENDING OTHER THAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TO BE CONFIRMED. SITUATION HAS PREVAILED IN DIOCESE FOR SOME YEARS BUT THIS FIRST PUBLIC PROTEST. SO FAR AS KNOWN THIS ONLY DIOCESE IN NORTH WHERE BAN IS PRACTICED BUT SINCE DIOCESE COVERS BELFAST SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS CHILDREN POTENTIALLY AFFECTED. PROBLEM ORIGINATED IN SUBURBS SUCH AS HOLYWOOD, BANGOR AND NEWTOWNARDS WHERE ATTENDANCE RC SCHOOLS OFTEN ENTAILS LONG COMMUTE. THESE TOWNS ALSO LARGELY MIDDLE CLASS RESIDENTIAL AREAS WITH NEIGHBORHOODS OF MIXED POPULATIONS.

2. ERNEST BAIRD, LEADER OF UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST MOVEMENT HAS CALLED ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE MATTER AS EXAMPLE OF THE "REAL DISCRIMINATION (WHICH IS) THAT PRACTICED BY MINORITY IN NORTH AND GOVERNMENT OF THE

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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00097 231357Z

(IRISH) REPUBLIC." MR. BAIRD WAS BORN AND RAISED IN DONEGAL AND HIS POLITICAL ATTITUDES WERE SHAPED BY WHAT HE HAS REFERRED TO AS "PERSECUTION" OF PROTESTANTS IN REPUBLIC.SPICER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CATHOLICS, CIVIL DISORDERS, PLACES OF WORSHIP  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PUBLIC ROW OVER CONFIRMATION REFUSAL  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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